

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

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DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THE U.S. ME ROLE

REF: MOSCOW 17512

1. SUMMARY. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE WEEKEND'S ME WAR
SCARE AND THE UN DEBATE ON PALESTINE, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE
HEIGHTENED THEIR FOCUS ON U.S. BACKING FOR ISRAEL. THE PRESS
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HAS LINKED ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE ON THE PLO AND TEL AVIV'S

"AGGRESSIVENESS" TO CONTINUING U.S. ARMS SUPPLIES. AT THE SAME TIME SOVIET STATEMENTS HAVE PICKED UP THEIR EMPHASIS ON GENEVA AND HAVE REPLAYED ARAB STATEMENTS SUGGESTING THAT U.S. EFFORTS TO MOVE FURTHER ON A ME SETTLEMENT HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE CONTEXT OF ALLEGATIONS ABOUT ISRAEL'S PREPARATION TO LAUNCH THE ME'S FIFTH WAR AND CRITICISM OF TEL AVIV FOR REFUSING TALKS WITH ARAFAT AND COMPANY, THE SOVIET PRESS HAS SHARPENED ITS FOCUS ON U.S. MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. THE THRUST OF SOVIET COMMENT, SUMMED UP IN PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (NOVEMBER 17) HAS BEEN THAT THE SOURCE OF ISRAEL'S AGGRESSIVENESS LIES "ABOVE ALL IN THE SUPPORT OF ZIONISTS AND MILITARIST CIRCLES ABROAD," SPECIFICALLY IN THE U.S. BACKING UP THIS THESIS PRAVDA SUPPLEMENTED A STATEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW BY MAYEVSKIY THAT THE "PENTAGON IS HURRYING TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH TANKS, PLANES AND OTHER MILITARY SUPPLIES" WITH A TASS REPORT (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 17) QUOTING A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ASSERTION THAT THE U.S. HAS DELIVERED 450 HEAVY TANKS TO ISRAEL SINCE OCTOBER 1973 AND WILL SUPPLY AN ADDITIONAL 250 IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. THE PRESS (E.G., PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL REVIEW) HAS ALSO CONTINUED TO PUBLICIZE ALLEGED U.S. PLANS TO INTERVENE AGAINST THE OIL PRODUCING STATES.

3. ON THE PALESTINE DEBATE, PRESS HAS FOLLOWED UP EARLIER ATTENTION TO EFFORTS POINTEDLY ATTRIBUTED TO ISRAEL AND THE U.S. TO BLOCK A UNGA INVITATION TO ARAFAT BY NUMEROUS REFERENCES ASSOCIATING THE U.S. WITH ISRAELI UNGA CONDUCT WHICH PRESS HAS UNIVERSALLY TREATED DEROGATORILY. TASS (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 16) REPORTED THAT THE LEBANESE PRESS WAS DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE "HOSTILITY" OF RABIN'S REACTION TO THE ARAFAT SPEECH WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED IN A MESSAGE TO THE LEADERS OF "U.S. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS." IN A REPORT ON THE UN DEBATE (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 17) TASS ASSERTED THAT IT WAS NOW UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM CANNOT BE CONNECTED SOLELY TO THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES AS "THE AGGRESSOR AND ITS BACKERS (SHORTHAND FOR THE U.S.) ARE TRYING TO DO."

4. ALONG WITH THE ABOVE, RECENT SOVIET STATEMENTS AND COMMENT HAVE REEMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF RECONVENING GENEVA.

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PRESIDENT PODGORNYY'S DINNER SPEECH, NOVEMBER 18 (REFTEL) AND SRI LANKA COMMUNIQUE (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 17) BOTH CALLED FOR "THE EARLIEST RENEWAL OF THE MEPC" AS DID PRAVDA INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (NOVEMBER 17). SUMMONING FOREIGN SUPPORT TO THE CAUSE, THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT WALDHEIM CALLED FOR THE EARLIEST REOPENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 17) AND PICKED UP A REPORTED STATEMENT BY FAHMY TO THE EGYPTIAN PRESS CALLING FOR THE EARLIEST RECONVENING OF GENEVA AS

"THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE FORUM FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS TO LIQUIDATE THE ME CRISIS" (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 18).

5. THE PRESS HAS ACCOMPANIED THIS STRESS ON GENEVA WITH INDIRECT DEPRECATION OF U.S. SOLO EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON AN ME SETTLEMENT. PRAVDA (NOVEMBER 19) REPORTED PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS ON THE ME AS CALLING FOR MOVEMENT ON SETTLEMENT. BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF REPORTS ON EGYPT'S ACTIONS TO COOL THE WEEKEND'S WAR SCARE, TASS (PRAVDA, NOVEMBER 18) REPORTED FAHMY "SUMMONED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF UNSC TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THE DANGERS OF THE SITUATION" (ATTENTION TO SC IN THIS CONTEXT STRESSES SOVIET PARTICIPATION) AND IN SEPARATE STORY REPORTED FAHMY STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT THE SECRETARY, DURING HIS LAST ME TRIP, HAD "ADVANCED NO CONCRETE PROPOSALS REGARDING AN ME SETTLEMENT."

6. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS' CURRENT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN APPEARS DESIGNED TO CAPITALIZE ON U.S. POSITIONS REGARDING THE PALESTINE DEBATE AND ARAB NERVOUSNESS ABOUT MILITARY INTENTIONS IN ORDER TO SHARPEN THE FOCUS ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE ARABS. PURSUIT OF THIS OBJECTIVE IS SEEN HERE AS TIMELY PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE KREMLIN IS PROBABLY INTENT ON DEMONSTRATING SOVIET DETERMINATION TO DEFEND ARAB INTERESTS IN ANY TALKS ABOUT THE ME WITH THE PRESIDENT AT VLADIVOSTOK.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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